

## Heath to address U.S. legislators

LONDON (AP) — Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath said Sunday he would fly to Washington later this week to give evidence on the Gulf to the U.S. Congress' Armed Services Committee. The former Conservative premier, who secured freedom for 33 British nationals after talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad in October, said he would try "to impress upon the American Congress that there is an alternative to war in the Gulf." Heath has urged a negotiated settlement of the crisis in the Gulf, where U.S.-led multinational force has been massing since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Heath said the committee's invitation had encouraged him, "because it is a clear indication of their willingness to listen to those of us who have been encouraging diplomatic initiatives from the start." Heath said he believed it was the first such invitation extended to a non-American by the committee, which has been assessing the United States' role in the Gulf. Heath said he would fly to Washington Wednesday and give evidence to the committee Thursday morning. He visited Iraq in October. The government discouraged his visit.

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## Iraq offers dates to Soviet people

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, a leading producer of dates, said Sunday it had offered the Soviet Union 500 tonnes of dates as a gift from the Iraqi people. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted the head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, Ibrahim Al Nouri, as saying the offer "stemmed from the spirit of the conventional friendship between the two people." The Soviet Union is experiencing severe food shortages. Nouri said the Soviet authorities had been informed of the offer but did not say if it was accepted or how the dates would be shipped from Iraq, which is now under an economic blockade.

## Qatar receives Iranian message

NICOSIA (R) — Qatari ruler Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani received a message Sunday from Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on the Gulf crisis. The Qatari News Agency (ONA) said the message was delivered by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who arrived earlier Sunday on a brief visit to Doha. Velayati later left for Oman. The agency said the message dealt with "developments in the tense situation in the Gulf region... and ways to ensure the security and stability of the region and the prevention of such an aggression through joint understanding among regional countries."

## Mitchell 'grateful' to Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Senate majority leader George Mitchell said Sunday he conveyed to Egypt "America's appreciation of Cairo's stand in the Gulf crisis and accused Iraq of adding to a series of mistakes and miscalculations." Mitchell, of Maine, is heading a tour of the region by seven Democratic senators. The group has been to Saudi Arabia where it held talks with King Fahd and visited U.S. troops. "We expressed on behalf of the U.S. Senate all America's gratitude to the Egyptian government for its solidarity and support," Mitchell said after a meeting with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. "The American people appreciated the close friendship between the two countries, the steady and strong support for American policy in this region."

## Tories lose ground to Labour

A LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservatives, who saw their popularity over the opposition Labour Party soar to double figures after Margaret Thatcher's resignation last month, has narrowed to four points, according to a new opinion poll. A Harris survey published in the Observer newspaper on Sunday gave the Conservatives 44 per cent, Labour 40, the centrist Liberal Democrats 10 and the environmentalist Greens three.

## Czechs resume Beirut flights

BEIRUT (AP) — The Czechoslovak airline CSA resumed flights to Beirut Sunday after a three-year suspension. The move reflected the improvement in security conditions following the reunification of the city after the withdrawal of warring militias from Beirut and their replacement by regular army troops. Civil aviation sources said a CSA Tupolev jet carrying 65 passengers landed at Beirut early Sunday.

## Egyptian dissident said in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — An Egyptian Islamic leader who is on a list of people with ties to "terrorists" is living in a New York mosque where the accused killer of rabbi Meir Kahane once worshipped, a newspaper reported. The New York Times said in Sunday editions that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, blind and in ill health, is the spiritual leader of the Farouq Majid, the mosque in the borough of Brooklyn where Abdul Rahman is staying.

## U.S. commander warns of 6-month war with Iraq

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The commander of American forces in the Gulf said Sunday that an all-out war with Iraq might last more than six months.

"I'm not going to hold anything back," General Norman Schwarzkopf told reporters in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh. He said he did not envision a protracted war.

But he warned that "it's going to be a tough fight" and "you can always get in a stalemate."

"I can't say it won't last more than six months," said the general, who will command a force of more than 400,000 in the Gulf by next month.

Proposals for "last chance" talks between Iraq and the United States remained stalled over dates Sunday. The U.N. Security Council's Jan. 15 deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is just a month away.

Iraq declared yet again that it would never withdraw from Kuwait — its 19th province — back to its people and origins in Iraq."

Rear Admiral Riley Mixson, commander of the U.S. navy's Red Sea task force, told reporters that by Jan. 15 there will be three U.S. carriers in the Red Sea and three in the Gulf.

Each carries about 70 warplanes. With two on active duty and one in reserve on each side of the Arabian Peninsula, up to 280 aircraft will be lined up to raid Iraqi targets at any one time.

"It's certainly no better than a fifty-fifty chance for peace and maybe a little worse than that," Mixson said on the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Saturday he was ready to display "political flexibility" as a dispute with Washington over dates threatened to undermine the proposed U.S.-Iraqi summit.

Speaking to a group of religious leaders, Saddam did not spell out what exactly he was offering to do, but insisted he would not "promise on a demand

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## Israelis to expel 4 Gazans, plan more expulsions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Sunday he would fight Palestinian protests by expelling Palestinian leaders and rejected U.S. opposition to the expulsion of four Palestinians.

But the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas, which claimed responsibility for the stabbing to death of three Israelis in Tel Aviv Friday, rushed out a new underground leaflet calling for renewed attacks against Israeli targets.

As positions hardened on both sides, troops shot dead a Palestinian overnight as he sprayed nationalist slogans on a wall in the occupied Gaza Strip town of Rafah, residents said.

Curfews confined some 320,000 Gazans to their homes, and a naval blockade stopped fishermen from launching their boats.

The Arab Lawyers Association in Gaza set up a committee to fight the expulsion orders and was submitted the appeal later Sunday, Israel Radio said. The four can appeal to a military tribunal and to the supreme court.

Israel resurrected its controversial expulsion policy after a 16-month break and ordered

## Israel faces strong Palestinian resistance, Arabyat says

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat Sunday described the expulsion by the Israeli occupation authorities of Palestinians from the occupied territories as an organised process.

"The Israeli authorities have always resorted to such measures whenever they were faced with solid positions and strong resistance by the Palestinian people under their occupation," Arabyat told Petra.

Commenting on the latest Israeli move to expel four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, Arabyat said: "The Israelis always take such inhuman and immoral measures, which are in violation of international legitimacy because they receive the full backing of aggressive foreign forces as well as the biased U.S."

"The Palestinian resistance is no longer restricted to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip but has spread to the Arab territories held since 1948," he said.

Arabyat said Europe was the first party hard hit by the American policy in the region. This has been clearly felt and reflected in statements issued by various European Community meetings, he said.

Arabyat said that the House appreciates the full understanding of the EC of the situation in the region. "We in this region view with full appreciation the true European move towards safeguarding the common interests in the region and preventing international hegemony," he said.

Arabyat said about 600 Palestinians were arrested in a swoop on Hamas activists.

In Tel Aviv, police reportedly rounded up Palestinian workers

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## Jordanian official scoffs at Israeli bids for bilateral talks

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Jordanian official has categorically rejected calls by Israel for bilateral negotiations over water sharing and some aspects of the territorial dispute between the Kingdom and the Jewish state saying all such negotiations should come only within the framework of a comprehensive solution to the fundamental Arab-Israeli conflict.

"What they are seeking is bilateral talks with us, and we are not prepared to do so outside the umbrella of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the United Nations Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)," the official said.

"There is nothing for Jordan to discuss with Israel at this point in time in the absence of an international conference," reaffirmed the official, referring to recent calls by Israeli officials for talks with Jordan on sharing the region's water resources.

and the Golan Heights, over 600 kilometres of Jordanian territory are under Israeli control, according to the official.

According to an U.N. source, the United Nations Truce Observers (UNTSO) who supervise the armistice between Jordan and Israel "are aware of the (Israeli) encroachment and they have raised the issue, formally and informally, with the Israelis."

"Every time, the Israelis reject the charge and challenge the observers to prove the encroachment through geographical evidence," said one source. "It is a very difficult task, in view of the nature of the terrain and in the absence of a definitely outlined demarcation line with geographical features," the source added.

According to the Jordanian official, Israel should discuss issues related to water resources in the occupied territories with the Palestinian people.

"If the Israelis are seeking to involve Jordan in talks over water resources in the West

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## Benjedid in Cairo after Beirut

### Syrian statement says only international solution possible in Gulf

CAIRO (Agencies) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid arrived here Sunday on a short visit for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis.

After greeting him at the airport, Mubarak escorted the visitor to the Kubba guest palace where he will be staying during his 24-hour visit, the second since August when he came to attend an emergency Arab summit on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The two presidents are expected to hold formal talks Monday.

Benjedid's arrival Sunday came amid reports from Syria indicating that the Algerian leader was losing hope for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

The statement said both presidents affirmed their desire for a

Syria and Lebanon.

An official statement issued after Benjedid left Damascus said Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait was imperative to avoid a tragedy in the region.

"The two presidents analysed thoroughly the Arab situation and agreed that after the development in the Gulf crisis, the possibilities of achieving a solution separate from an international settlement have faded," the statement said.

"It has become impossible, after the passage of time and the passing of international (U.N.) resolutions, to find a solution except within the framework of an international settlement," the statement said.

The statement said both presidents affirmed their desire for a

"peaceful settlement through Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstating of the Kuwaiti government to avoid anticipated big tragedies to the region and Iraq."

"This is why it is very important that Iraq takes the initiative to withdraw from Kuwait in order to serve the national Arab interests, and in response to the appeal of all the loyal voices," the statement added.

"On the Arab-Israeli conflict, it has been stressed on that this issue is the core of Arab concern. It has been also agreed on the importance of intensifying efforts to implement the international resolutions related to this subject, and in a way to secure

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## Giraud: Iraq has no atomic weapons

PARIS (Agencies) — Former French Defence Minister Andre Giraud Sunday branded as "a total lie" claims that Iraq has nuclear weapons or is on the point of acquiring them.

"On this particular point I'm sufficiently competent and sufficiently informed to say this is a total lie. Iraq has no nuclear weapons and there is no risk of Iraq acquiring nuclear weapons in the coming years," he said on French radio.

Giraud, who was speaking on Radio Monte Carlo, had the defence portfolio in the 1986-88 conservative government after top managerial posts in France's oil and nuclear industries.

He said war against Iraq would be a protracted affair.

"It would be a grave error to underestimate, in particular, Iraqi ground troops who are apparently dug into defences in Kuwait which will be extremely difficult to penetrate," he said.

"Those who talk of a lightning war based on air strikes are dreaming, I believe."

Giraud, a member of the centre-right Republican Party, expressed astonishment at President George Bush's refusal to send Secretary of State James Baker to meet President Saddam Hussein Jan. 12.

"It wasn't so long ago that President Bush himself suggested Secretary of State Baker meet Saddam Hussein between Dec. 15 and Jan. 15," the date set by the United Nations for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face war.

"A few days ago he (Bush) discovered that Jan. 12 was no longer an acceptable date. This is amazing," Giraud said.

The former defence minister was among those who criticised President Francois Mitterrand for sending French troops to join U.S.-dominated forces in Saudi Arabia, saying that not enough had been done to seek a negotiated solution to the Gulf crisis.

"We have started contacts to find other sources of funding," he said, adding that the cost of the project would be JD 250 million.

In a statement supported by figures, tables and statistics, Giraud said Jordan's consumption of water, which stands at 730 million cubic metres annually, would rise by the year 2005 to

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab officials and analysts still see hope in the success of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid's mission to explore the basis of an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis despite failure so far of efforts to bring about a top-level Iraqi-Saudi Arabian meeting.

Well-placed officials expect Benjedid to return to Algeria soon and plan on a trip to either Riyadh or even Washington in an Arab attempt to break the deadlock between Iraq and the United States and to heal the rift in the Arab ranks over the Gulf crisis.

"I prefer to address the giants... (the U.S. and the Soviet Union) ... there is no need to address their boys... there is no need to address the chorus regardless if they speak Hebrew (Israel) or in Arabic," he told thousands who packed the Royal Cultural Centre. Arafat was distributing the Jerusalem Medal for outstanding Jordanian thinkers, poets, novelists and researchers.

"I expect him to finish his tour and go back to Algeria. Then he will go either to Riyadh or Washington," a senior Jordanian official told the Jordan Times Sunday.

Benjedid, who has visited Amman, Baghdad, Tehran,

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## Minister reports difficulties in finding Al Wahdah financing

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The minister of water and irrigation, Mr. Daud Khalaf, Sunday told the Lower House of Parliament that Jordan was finding difficulties to secure financing for the Al Wahdah Dam, planned to be built across the Yarmouk River on the borders between Syria and Jordan.

"The World Bank and other financiers are following delaying tactics," the minister said in a statement to the House about the water situation in the Kingdom.

"We have started contacts to find other sources of funding," he said, adding that the cost of the project would be JD 250 million.

In a statement supported by figures, tables and statistics, Khalaf said Jordan's consumption of water, which stands at 730 million cubic metres annually, would rise by the year 2005 to

During the lengthy debate, one deputy, Dr. Ahmad Al Kofahi (Muslim Brotherhood, Irbid) left the chamber in protest against the speaker preventing him from raising a point.

Kofahi, a member of the House Legal Committee that approved the law, had, together with six other members, made reservations concerning Article 7 of the law. The seven wanted the article, which specifies an oath to be taken by judges comprising the Higher Council of Justice, to be rephrased to give more emphasis to Islam being the source of laws.

Their reservation, however, was not debated and Speaker Abd Latif Arabyat hurried put the article to vote. This resulted in a number of deputies, from different blocs, to criticise the speaker for not giving a chance for the proposal of the seven. Arabyat later made a gesture of apology to Kofahi.

The violence continued in Fez

The government said rioting

Friday in Fez killed five people, including a policeman, and injured 127 people, mostly police.

Scores of people were reported injured in other cities during a nationwide, one-day general strike Friday to demand higher wages.

The government, however,

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## Deaths in Moroccan strife said between 33 and 100

RABAT (Agencies) — Security forces patrolled major cities Sunday following two days of rioting, and government opponents insisted the death toll was higher than the official figure of 33.

Unconfirmed claims from doctors, union officials and others asserted that anywhere from 33 to more than 100 people had been killed in the city of Fez.

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## PLO rebuffs Soviet, British bids to alter U.N. resolution

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has rejected an invitation to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Turkey, highlighting a deepening rift between the former allies.

Senior aides to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman have disclosed that Arafat was in Baghdad when he received the request for a meeting on Friday in Ankara. Talks were to focus on a controversial U.N. Security Council resolution endorsing a Mideast peace conference.

But, through the Soviet embassy in the Iraqi capital, Arafat conveyed his rejection, said the aides interviewed by the AP separately by telephone from Tunis. They requested

"Shevardnadze wanted to market the American position," said one aide. "We want a resolution that endorses a Middle East peace conference... there's nothing to discuss or bargain on."

The PLO said it had also rebuffed a British attempt to persuade it to accept amendments to the U.N. resolution on protecting Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to Arafat, said in an interview published Sunday the amended text would not have mentioned an international peace conference.

"The British contacted us with an American request to agree to amend the proposed resolution so that it does not refer to the international conference. The PLO said it rejected any changes," he told the Tunis newspaper Al Shuruq.

Arafat saw British Ambassa-

dor Tunis Stephen Day on Wednesday as part of lengthy consultations on the Security Council resolution, which may go to a vote Monday.

The United States is against referring to the conference, which Israel opposes.

Western diplomatic sources said Britain's view was that although it favoured the conference, the aim of the resolution was to protect the Palestinians and it may be advisable for the sake of consensus, not to mention the conference.

He said the PLO was looking towards France for backing at the council "after losing hope of any support from our supposed allies, the Soviets." He was referring to France's rejection of a resolution that does not contain a mention of the peace conference.

Iraq has insisted that any settlement of its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait be linked to a solution to Israel's occupation of Arab territories. U.S. President George Bush has rejected the linkage.

Escalating violence in the occupied territories, however, has left the United States in a diplomatic bind.

A veto of the proposed resolution at the Security Council would reinforce accusations that it was applying double standards in the Middle East.

It also might jeopardise a tenuous Arab coalition led by the United States against Iraq.

Shevardnadze, according to one of the PLO officials, was planning to propose "that we distance ourselves from Iraq and accept half-hearted resolution calling for the protection of Palestinian civilians, but defers a solution to the suffering until after the Gulf crisis is resolved."

He said the United States was seeking that the paragraph deal-

ing with the peace conference be removed from the resolution and put in a separate, non-binding statement from the council president.

"A series of U.N. resolutions that are supposed to be binding have failed to rein in the Israelis. A non-binding statement from the (council) president will only encourage violence," PLO official told the AP.

He said the PLO was looking towards France for backing at the council "after losing hope of any support from our supposed allies, the Soviets." He was referring to France's rejection of a resolution that does not contain a mention of the peace conference.

Arafat, while on a visit to Jordan Saturday, referred to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as "Gorbush" during a speech at a rally marking the third anniversary of the intifada.

"I think Bush and Gorbush understand that we are not a chorus to them," he said.

Arafat flew to Amman from Baghdad. He discussed with His Majesty King Hussein the Gulf crisis and the deadlock over the Security Council resolution and returned to Iraq the same day after attending the rally.

"It is clear that there is American pressure on all other members of the Security Council not to vote for the submitted resolution," Arafat told reporters on arrival in the Jordanian capital.

"They've (U.S.) backed down on their initial approval of the resolution. How can we trust them when they promise to settle the Palestinian problem but after a settlement in the Gulf?" Arafat said.

## Shultz says Iraq's military might should be eliminated

WASHINGTON (R) — Former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Saturday that the United States and its allies should eliminate Iraq's military power even if it withdraws its forces from Kuwait.

"The time to stop (Iraq) is now," Shultz said in a taped interview on the Cable News Network programme "Newsweek Saturday."

While Shultz did not explicitly urge that the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf invade Iraq, he said that if Baghdad's military might remained intact it would leave an "imbalance of power" in the region that would make neighbouring nations fearful of future attacks.

"You have to deal with the underlying cause of all this, namely this military strength, and the willingness to use weapons that very few other states would

use," said Shultz, who was secretary of state during most of Republican President Ronald Reagan's eight-year White House tenure.

Henry Kissinger, who was secretary of state under Republican U.S. presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, also said an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait alone would not adequately resolve the crisis.

"It will have been demonstrated that you can engage in this outrageous conduct without penalty and, secondly, that the balance of power, which required 450,000 Americans to redress, is tilted again towards Iraq with the departure of the Americans," Kissinger said on the CNN programme.

"So, I think Saddam Hussein will have come out ahead if that is the outcome."

**MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Bahrain urges world to solve Gulf crisis

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain Sunday called on the world community to use all possible means to solve the Gulf crisis. Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa said on the anniversary of Bahrain's national day efforts must be made to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait according to international norms and other resolutions. "Every means should be used to achieve this goal," the Gulf News Agency quoted Sheikh Hamad as saying. Sheikh Hamad praised King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the United States and European, Arab and Islamic states "who have taken positive and fruitful stands to protect the region's security." Bahrain said Wednesday it was cancelling its national day celebrations on Sunday "because of the current events in the region and the regrettable situation Kuwaitis are living in."

### Mauritania says Amnesty biased

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Mauritania has said the human rights group Amnesty International showed bias in a report this week that said 1,000 black Mauritanians had been illegally arrested and some might have died. Information Minister Mohammed Lemine Ould Ahmad rejected the allegations, saying Amnesty was biased in favour of Senegal, with which Mauritania has had hostile relations since a border dispute erupted into riots last year. "Amnesty International has clearly chosen its camp," Ahmad said, adding that the London-based group seemed to be keeping quiet about the deaths of hundreds of Mauritanians in Senegal. The minister confirmed that some people had been arrested following the discovery of a coup plot in November, but he gave no figures.

### Sudan and Libya sign accords

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan and Libya have signed four agreements aimed at raising the level of trade between the two countries and improving the climate for investment in Sudan, state-run Radio Omdurman said. Sudanese leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir and Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi declared their intention earlier this year to unify their countries. The radio said the agreement involved insurance and reinsurance, trade, investment and taxation. They were signed by Sudan's Finance and Planning Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi and Libyan Treasury Minister Mohammad Al Madani Al Bukhari. Libya's Ambassador to Khartoum Ramadhan Bashir told the radio the accords were part of the process of integrating the two countries and would remove all obstacles in the way of increasing bilateral trade.

Sana'a has condemned the invasion, but also deplored the U.S.-led foreign military buildup against Iraq.

The delegation has visited Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Sudan.

## Yemen assures Kuwaitis its stand misunderstood

SANA (AP) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iriyani has assured a Kuwaiti delegation that was a "misunderstanding" over Yemen's position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"Some media are casting doubt on the principled stand of Yemen from the occupation of Kuwait. The Yemeni stand on the case of Kuwait has been misunderstood," Iriyani told the delegation. "The Republic of Yemen rejects the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait."

Sana'a, he said, was exerting "tremendous efforts" to reach a settlement to the Gulf crisis that would guarantee an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait.

That settlement should also "guarantee Arab security," he added in the statements later communicated to the press by the Kuwaiti delegation spokesman Ahmad Al Rabe'.

The delegation has visited Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Sudan.

## Israeli admits plot to send explosives to Colombia

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — An Israeli citizen has agreed to plead guilty to trying to broker an arms deal that would have fulfilled a shopping list of weapons for a Colombian drug cartel.

David Candotti, 30, promised in an agreement in federal court to testify about shipments foiled in a sting that produced his arrest June 9, 1989, at an exit off the Florida turnpike.

Candotti and Gil, alleged to be undercover agents before their arrest that their orders came from "Don Pacho," a leader of the Cali cartel, investigators said.

Federal investigators said the three planned to ship the military hardware to the Cali cartel for an assassination attempt on Pablo Escobar Gaviria, head of the rival Medellin drug cartel.

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**European Committee issues declaration  
on providing protection to Palestinians**

## Palestinian ambassador hails Rome statement



Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestinian Ambassador here Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim Sunday welcomed to have a European Community's statement Rome about protecting the Palestinian people under occupation," Abdul Rahim said.

He said that if the United States wanted to pursue its hostile stand on the Palestinian people and their rights, wanted to maintain its support for Israel's actions which endanger peace and security in the Arab World and continued to follow a double standard policy with regard to international issues, the world community, in general, and the European Community, in particular, were called on to deal with the dangerous situation.

He called on the world community to put an end to such double standard policies and to exercise all forms of pressure on Israel to end its occupation of Arab land and grant the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and to set up an independent state under PLO leadership.

The European Community nations have adopted a special, unique stand with regard to the Palestine question, starting from the 1980 Venice Declaration; the Rome Declaration Saturday assumes a significant importance coming at this particular moment when the United States is going on with its attempts to disrupt the implementation of the international legitimacy, through the Security Council, of the Palestine problem and the Rome Declaration will be

postponing the question of holding an international peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli issue," the ambassador added.

The EC leaders ended a two-day summit Saturday by calling for an international peace conference and expressing concern about increasing violence in the Israeli occupied territories.

"The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hopes that the Rome Declaration will be

followed up by the 12 nations exerting extra efforts at all levels to pressure the Security Council into issuing a resolution calling for the international conference and for providing protection for the Palestinian people under occupation," Abdul Rahim said.

He said that if the United States wanted to pursue its hostile stand on the Palestinian people and their rights, wanted to maintain its support for Israel's actions which endanger peace and security in the Arab World and continued to follow a double standard policy with regard to international issues, the world community, in general, and the European Community, in particular, were called on to deal with the dangerous situation.

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AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan outlined Jordan's ongoing endeavours to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework and in conformity with the international legitimacy during a meeting at the Royal Court Sunday with Cardinal Francis Arinze.

Prince Hassan and Cardinal Arinze have organised a three-day symposium on the rights of the child and children's education under Christian and Islamic faiths.

The cardinal voiced appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan for Jordan's unique role worldwide to bring about justice and peace to the Middle East.

Prince Hassan presented the cardinal, who is president of the Vatican-based Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, with Jordan's Al Kawab Medal of the First Order which was bestowed on him by the King.

The meeting was attended by the Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah and Al-Aqsa Foundation President Dr. Nassreddin Al Assad.

He called on the Arab leaders to put their differences aside and to stand united in the face of the Israeli-American coalition.

"Our nation has a right which makes it incumbent on us to rise above our differences and mobilise all our resources to counter the challenges facing our nation," Obeidat said.

"By doing so we will be able to ensure equal treatment and to force others to adhere to international legitimacy and to apply one standard when dealing with regional issues," the minister said.

Addressing the opening of the 34th session of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), Obeidat called for establishing joint Arab labour institutions capable of meeting the aspirations and hopes of the Arab Nation. He said that Jordan totally rejected the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf, adding that such presence posed a challenge to the Arab will and degraded Arab dignity.

He also said that the stationing of these forces in the Arab peninsula was direct intervention in Arab affairs.

The minister refuted all the pretexts and allegations given for the massing of U.S. troops in the Gulf region, saying that the U.S. decision vis-a-vis the Arab causes was "part and parcel of the other side's Zionist and Israeli decision."

## Labour minister calls on Arabs to live up to challenges

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## EC grants aid for water investigation, farming

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Commission has just approved a grant of \$8.4 million to finance two projects concerned with water investigation and with the application of water

ar. Japan has a method in low rainfall areas of to support Jordan.

The groundwater investigation of its own study (\$5.6 million) is intended to evaluate aquifer resources in the Hammad and Sirhan basins, in the east of the country. The project will involve hydrological and geohydrologic site investigations based on a documenting well-drilling programme in order to assess the exact extent of the to be used underground water reserve and the best means of exploring it. Desert Shiek

The Hammad and Sirhan basins cover a watershed drainage area extending over 30,000 square kilometres adjoining the Syrian, Iraqi and Saudi Arabian borders.

The information generated by the four-year study will provide an essential component to the Jordan government's monitoring, assessment and management of the national water supply system. The Ministry of Water and Irrigation will carry out the project with the assistance of an EC-based consultant in association with a local contractor.

The water study is the second to be financed by the European Commission. A Dutch hydrolo-

## Seminar reviews nursing education

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health services representatives from the private and public sectors, universities, the Royal Medical Services and the Ministry of Health took part in a seminar, held Sunday to review higher nursing education in Jordan, organised in cooperation with the German Technical Cooperation Institute (GTZ).

The seminar dwelt on matters related to training of nurses and cooperation among various concerned authorities to promote the nursing profession and nursing services in the country.

Addressing the opening session, Minister of Health Mohammad Abdou Zaben emphasised the Ministry of Health's keenness to promote the nursing sector in view of its significant role in ensuring primary health care in Jordan.

The programme will be carried out by the Department of Badia and Rangeland Development (Ministry of Agriculture) and the Jordan University Faculty of Agriculture, in cooperation with a selected European counterpart institution.

The project will target communities living in the badia.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "L'orient des cafés" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Makarram Haghodaq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Christmas shopping arcades organised by the Noor Al Hissam Foundation at Hotel Jordan Intercontinental (open 3 - 10 p.m.).



Crown Prince, Cardinal Arinze discuss crisis

U.S. churches hope to direct Gulf crisis towards peace

## Arab solution possible in Gulf if world allows it — Prince

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Arab solution to the Gulf crisis is still possible, if only the world powers would allow it, and the ongoing mission of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid is a contribution to developing an Arab perspective and reaching a settlement of the four-month-old conflict. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was quoted as saying Sunday.

The Crown Prince was briefing a delegation comprising eight leaders of American churches, representing 42 million Americans, on Jordan's position towards the Gulf crisis and its efforts to avert a catastrophic war over Kuwait, delegation members said.

The reverend expressed hope that the findings of the mission could be filtered back into American public opinion and contribute to accelerating the debate over the gradual move towards war in the Gulf.

"There are many many Americans who are totally ignorant of what is happening," he added.

Dr. Bishop said the delegation's mission, which stems from a meeting of the National Council of Churches of Christ held in Portland, Oregon, in November, had sent an appeal to the White House emphasising the need to avert war in the Gulf. The appeal, Dr. Bishop said, "was very critical of his policy in the Gulf."

The delegation also hopes to meet President George Bush upon its return to the U.S., he added.

The cardinal voiced appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan for Jordan's unique role worldwide to bring about justice and peace to the Middle East.

Prince Hassan presented the cardinal, who is president of the Vatican-based Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue, with Jordan's Al Kawab Medal of the First Order which was bestowed on him by the King.

The meeting was attended by the Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah and Al-Aqsa Foundation President Dr. Nassreddin Al Assad.

The cardinal voiced appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan for Jordan's unique role worldwide to bring about justice and peace to the Middle East.

"There will be an Arab solution" if Jordan is allowed to play its role, Dr. Bishop quoted the Crown Prince as saying.

The Crown Prince also told the delegation that President Benjedid's mission "is an effort in developing an Arab contribution" to a solution to the Gulf crisis and averting war in the region, the Most Rev. Browning, the delegation leader, told the Jordan Times shortly after the meeting at the Royal Palace.

We are eight church heads in

"We pray fervently that our mission would contribute a great deal to peacefully resolving the Gulf crisis," he noted in an implicit reference to the possible influence of the group among the Americans. The team includes the Episcopal Church, the Reformed Church in America, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, the American Baptist Church, and the United Methodist Church.

"We have done quite a few things in the United States," he said. "There is a growing question (among the American public) over the whole issue, especially a question as to whether a military option should be exercised."

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By Dr. Waleed Sadi

# Jordan Times

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## To or not to

AHMAD OBEIDAT, chairman on the General Commission charged with the task of drafting the National Charter, recently suggested two ways in which the people can voice their opinion on it: Either by conducting a referendum or by submitting the charter to Parliament for approval. One could perhaps doubt that parliamentary consent equates with direct public blessing. Given the circumstances under which the present Parliament was voted in and the many flaws in the Election Law, it would be unfair to equate a parliamentary vote of confidence on the charter with that of the people of Jordan. After all, the projected charter aims to rectify the many omissions and faults in the prevailing election laws and it would, therefore, be unwise for members of Parliament to exercise a final judgement on the very charter that aims to correct shortcomings that led them to their present position. Accordingly one would propose that the country goes directly to the people for their evaluation of the body of law that will shape and guide the future political course of the country. Yet there remains another problem with conducting a referendum on the charter. Since Jordanians would be asked to accept or reject the charter as a whole rather than in part there would be no room or opportunity to weed out some negative features of the draft text while endorsing the rest. Granted it would be extremely difficult to conduct a referendum on a piece of law on the basis of offering opportunities for a separate vote on some parts that are viewed as positive and reject others that are considered as negative. Nevertheless the drafters of the charter need to consider ways and means that would facilitate such an objective by devising a mechanism that would put certain special features of the charter under a separate vote. Better still, alternative language can be submitted to the public from which to choose with regard to certain fundamental aspects of the charter. The drafts of this new charter can identify such features on the basis of the discussions that were conducted on the text of the charter over the past few months. As the anticipated charter's impact on the country will be great, it would be prudent for the people of the country to have a genuine opportunity to pronounce themselves on its contents. Even though the charter is not intended to serve as a new constitution of the country in the full sense of the word, its scope and goals are such that it would be safer to treat it as something of an "improvement" on the existing one. Therefore, the people must directly express their collective opinion and must also have an opportunity to reject some parts that are viewed as contrary to the common good. This, of course, Parliament has to be consulted on, and then all views must come out in the open and be debated.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY SUSPENDING talks with Iraq, the U.S. administration has thus responded favourably to pressures exercised on it by the Zionists and the Israeli government, and follows Iraq's refusal to succumb to the will of the United States, said Al Ra' Arabic daily Sunday. The suspension also indicates that the U.S. administration was not serious in its initiative to open a dialogue with the Iraqi leadership to reach a settlement over the Gulf issue, said the paper. It noted that Washington's decision came in the wake of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to the United States and his talks with its government leaders and members of the Congress. But the Arabs should not lie idle and must, in the face of the new obstacles, exert double efforts towards defusing the crisis regardless of Israel's conspiracies and Washington's irresponsible moves, the paper said. The daily stressed the need to open an Arab-Arab dialogue, and said that direct contacts between the parties involved in this issue can provide a good chance for a settlement. Of course, the suspension of the dialogue is bound to bring happiness to the Israelis and the warmongers who find in striking against the Iraqi military power as the best means to ensure Israel's safety, the paper continued. It said that Washington's decision to suspend the dialogue should serve as an impetus for the Arabs to end America's hegemony over the Gulf issue and to prove to the world that they can handle their own affairs by themselves.

Al Dustour daily newspaper gave due praise to the European Community leaders for their position with regard to the Middle East issue, describing the Rome declaration Saturday as providing elements to improve the political climate. The paper referred in particular to the European community's insistence on the need to hold an international conference to find a lasting solution for the Palestine problem at a time when the idea is rejected by the United States and its Israeli ally and when innocent people fall victim to repression in the Israeli-held Arab territories. What is important about this declared European stand is that it came at a time when the Bush administration continues to obstruct the endorsement of a resolution at the U.N. Security Council providing protection for the Arab population of Palestine and calling for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference, the paper continued. What is encouraging about this declaration, said the paper, is that it contained a pledge by the Europeans to pursue efforts towards increasing trade with the occupied Arab land as a show of support for the cause of justice and peace. This can be regarded as a clear indication by the Europeans to help alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinians under occupation and oppression, the paper said. The paper considered the Rome declaration as of great significance that could play a major role in efforts to achieve a lasting peace.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Irreconcilable differences

LAST WEEK the Palestinian intifada entered its fourth year without any sign that a political settlement could be in sight. The official Israeli position appears to be at a standstill and against an equitable compromise that would relieve Tel Aviv as well as the Arab side, notably the Palestinians from any additional suffering.

The question that remains is whether the past three years of Palestinian struggle have been in vain. I submit that contrary to all outward appearances, the Palestinian intifada has indeed advanced the cause of the Palestinian people and drawn them closer to their national aspirations and goals. For one thing, the intifada has consolidated the cleavages between the Israeli Jews and the Palestinian people on more than one front. The once held views that Israelis and Arabs can live together in peace and harmony has all but vanished. What is now gaining currency among the Israelis is the view that there are simply irreconcilable differences between the Palestinians and the Israelis and the only way out is to have a divorce, albeit an amicable one rather than a contentious one. Many Israelis would now opt to have lesser territory and more peace and tranquility in their daily lives than more territory coupled with more insecurity and anguish. After dismissing the "transfer option" once circulated by Israeli extremists as simply too unacceptable and unworkable even by countries closely connected with Tel Aviv, the only operational alternative left to contemplate is a divorce under which the Palestinians would enjoy their own separate identity and state-

hood side by side with Israel and its people. What the future would hold for the two peoples is something that has to be addressed by future Israeli and Palestinian generations. For the time being and for as long as one can see, the Palestinians and Israelis cannot live together under one roof no matter how much optimists would like to think and argue otherwise.

The main point is now to arrange a reasonable divorce arrangement between the two peoples that can withstand the test of the trials and tribulations of the coming years. It would require unmatched maturity and equitable give and take. True the Palestinian people would forever long to be associated with the eastern half of Palestine just like the Israeli would probably long forever to be a part of the western half of Palestine. In the event that an amicable separation can be successfully stitched by the two peoples, the future relations between the two sides can also be engineered on a reasonable basis to the benefit of both sides. The sky is the limit as to how much the two sides can cooperate in conditions of peace and stability. The original Palestinian partition plan of 1947 which has now become a Palestinian national aspiration envisaged an economic union between the two halves. This in turn would offer unlimited opportunities for the two sides to construct additional working arrangements touching upon their mutual security.

Any such Palestinian state born out of the projected divorce between the Israelis and the Palestinians would most probably opt to link up with Jordan with which they have already strong

connections on every level beginning with human dimensions and ending with their common destiny and shared aspirations. The mechanics and format of such a linkage need not pose any problem as long as the overriding national interest of the two sides remain the determining factor that shapes them. Up until now there has been a consensus that such futuristic projections are premature for any immediate consideration and reflection by either side. With repeated signals that in the wake of the resolution of the Kuwaiti situation, the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict would be up for a head on resolution, time becomes ripe to reflect as of now on the future relations between the two banks. Pending the resolution of the Gulf crisis, time could be well spent on a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue with a view to lay the ground for more formal contacts. Come to think of it, the Jordanian National Charter currently being drafted can also address this point at least in its preamble paragraphs. Since this contemplated charter envisages charting Jordan's future political course, it would be relevant to keep an eye on the future Jordanian-Palestinian relations and lay the ground work for it. In any case, time is opportune to start reflecting deeply on the futuristic connections between the two banks as of this point in time. The urgency of such explanatory talks can be best illustrated by the tremendous impact of any such talks on any future Arab-Israeli negotiations including Palestinian-Israeli negotiations whether under the umbrella of the U.N. Security Council or otherwise.

## 'Who can tell?'

By Maureen Johnson  
The Associated Press

ROME — John Major, Britain's new prime minister, changed little of substance, but at the end of his international debut in Europe everything seemed different.

The battles of Margaret Thatcher's era, just three weeks into history, were a fading memory as the mild-mannered Major plotted a skillful course between holding to old positions while ending Britain's long isolation in the European Community.

Major, 47, arrived at a two-day European Community summit with one big advantage in the eyes of the 11 other leaders bruised by the bitter confrontations with Britain over European union: He wasn't Mrs. Thatcher.

"The position of the new British government could be summed up by saying they feel they are Europeans," commented German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

From Kohl, a powerful world figure, to leaders of small countries like Ireland's Prime Minister Charles Haughey, the other EC leaders went out of their way to welcome the man who replaced the Western world's longest serving leader.

Major came to Rome a virtually unknown figure to most of them — hovering diffidently on the edge of the photo line-ups in which Mrs. Thatcher traditionally stood centre-stage.

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**In contrast to the robust exchanges with Mrs. Thatcher that marked most summits, Major ran out of superlatives to describe the atmosphere — "extremely good... very friendly.... extremely positive."**

"We... intend to be wholeheartedly engaged in the enterprise of building, shaping and developing Europe," he told the others.

Italian officials enthused that "all 12 are on board." Kohl and Major got on first name terms before the end of their first one-on-one meeting.

The German leader explained that his country was pressing the drive for European union partly to allay fears

of the newly united Germany in a continent ravaged by World War II.

And Major, the first British leader born after the 1939-45 conflict, replied tactfully that "most people of my generation and younger take a very positive view of the community."

At least for now, the new style seemed like a new era.

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**In contrast to the robust exchanges with Mrs. Thatcher that marked most summits, Major ran out of superlatives to describe the atmosphere — "extremely good... very friendly.... extremely positive."**

But underneath the smiles and the unassuming demeanor, Major stuck to Mrs. Thatcher's fundamental objections to radical plans for a single European currency and closer political ties that could lead to a federal-type Europe.

Mrs. Thatcher objected that neither she nor the British parliament would accept that kind of loss of sovereignty.

The EC's currency plan, starting with a single central

bank by 1991, is still ticking away. It is the most ominous of the potential time bombs the community leaders left behind after the second Rome summit.

The other major sign that the honeymoon could soon be over was the all-options-included communique on political union that appeared de-signed not to offend anyone.

It encompassed the pro-federalists' hopes for the community to take over a whole range of domestic matters such as health and education, to Britain's distinctly more modest ideas.

These include closer cooperation on foreign and security policy and the community's executive body, the European commission, getting powers to monitor community spending and how nations shape up on implementing joint decisions.

Two intergovernmental conferences which began Saturday are charged with tuning all this over next year into final proposals everyone can accept.

Throughout, Major remained loyal to Mrs. Thatcher, the leader who singled him out and gave him his meteoric rise.

But just at the end when a reporter suggested that Mrs. Thatcher was wrong when she slighted even a British compromise proposal on the single currency, Major gave an inch. "Who can tell?" he said.



## Mission

(Continued from page 1)

The cancellation of Benjedid's visit to Riyadh, which was originally expected to take place at the outset of his tour, remains a controversial episode.

In fact there are at least three accounts of why the visit did not take place. According to the first the U.S. pressured the Saudi government to renege on a prior pledge to receive Benjedid. One senior Arab official told the Jordan Times that Benjedid was only notified of the cancellation of the trip upon his arrival in Amman. "Benjedid was told by European channels that Washington had asked Riyadh not to receive him," the official said.

Other Jordanian officials did not confirm or deny this account. But analysts noted that the next day after Benjedid visited here Prime Minister Mudar Badran accused foreign powers of obstructing the inter-Arab dialogue.

The party's parliamentary group was shaken last week when six members rebelled and protested at China's Paris embassy against trials of political dissidents in Beijing. A delegation from the Chinese party will attend the congress.

Party rebels told the daily Liberation they thought they could glean up 15 per cent of a protest vote at the congress. "That's never been seen before in the party," one told the paper.

French newspapers said Marchais was furious at Jean Fabien's latest publication and had demanded a thorough investigation to expose the identities of the dissidents.

In public, Marchais scolded the rebel group as a "pitiful masquerade," saying in a statement: "They are trying to bully Communists and create a climate of confrontation and intolerance during the preparation and work of the 27th congress."

Well-informed Arab sources with good contacts with the Saudi government said Riyadh was not ready to allow any mediation if there were no strong indications of an Iraqi intention to withdraw from Kuwait. The source said that an Iraqi promise to withdraw — conveyed through Algeria — might be enough to set the stage for a Saudi-Iraqi summit.

But other knowledgeable

Arabs and the Palestinians."

In addition to public calls on Jordan to enter talks, Israel has also been sending diplomatic feelers to the Kingdom for bilateral negotiations but Amman has rebuffed such efforts, diplomatic sources said.

They wanted further discussions on Al Wahab dam, Jordan Valley water, security issues across the demarcation line and other aspects of the conflict," said one diplomat.

Over the last week Iraq has stepped up its hardline rhetoric reiterating that Kuwait was an invidious part of Iraq but Arab officials said that it appears to have been one of the reasons which prompted Israel to undermine World Bank financing for Al Wahab by putting up its own claim to Yarmouk waters," he added.

Jordanian officials have said that the World Bank, which had initially expressed willingness to extend financing for the dam project on the Jordanian-Syrian border across the Yarmouk River, had subsequently informed Jordan that the Israeli "claim" to the river waters should be settled before the bank could extend funds to finance the project.

According to reports, Israel has depleted almost all of its reservoirs and is pumping water from aquifers in the West Bank to meet its needs. The Israeli government, alarmed by a dramatic drop in the level of water, has also ordered a halt to pumping water from the Sea of Galilee, Israel and other regional experts say that the Jewish state will have to import water if there is another drought year.

Rafael Eitan, the Israeli agriculture minister, suggested last month that Jordan and Israel cooperate in building at least two water plants near the demarcation line, to supply water to both sides, and a third one in the occupied Gaza Strip. Jordanian officials said at the time that the call was not even worth responding to in the absence of any concrete move towards addressing the fundamental political issues involved.

## Israeli bids

(Continued from page 1)

Bank, then they should understand that the party they should address is not Jordan but the Palestinian people since the land is Palestinian, the water is Palestinian and the right to the resources is Palestinian," the official said.

As far as Jordan is concerned, the official added, "we are ready to discuss water in the north, the Jordanian territory under occupation, and other issues directly related to Jordanian sovereignty and territorial integrity simultaneously with talks between the



## Hijab — a passport to liberty

**By Seeda Kilani**  
*Special to the Jordan Times*  
 ISLAMIC revival in Jordan over the past two decades has manifested itself in various facets of life, most outwardly in the fact that more and more women opt to wear the hijab (veil). Although the hijab has largely been perceived as a symbol of chastity and good conduct, many women insist that for them wearing the hijab facilitates marriage, acquiring higher education or merely to help them escape from personal conflict and a spiritual void.

"Wearing the hijab was the only choice left to me if I wanted to complete my university studies, to get my driving licence and even to visit my friends," says L.A., a 23-year-old student in the literature department at the University of Jordan. "I was under pressure from my parents, my brothers and even my future husband's family," she maintains.

Some university students share L.A.'s opinion and find it hard to cope with their new situation. Some of them even take the hijab off the moment they step outside their homes.

"At the beginning, I wore the hijab because I was influenced by my teacher at school," says Laila Qasem, a fourth year student at the biology department. "Now it is just habit, I don't wear it at home even if I don't wear it outside."

Social pressure often dictates the necessity of wearing the conservative headdress to avoid familial clashes. Several students are forced to wear hijab only at the university while they are free to wear it or not outside.

"My parents forced me to wear the hijab when I entered university because my cousin studies at the university too, and they pointed out it would be a bad idea for our relatives in the village to see me without a hijab," says a third year student at the faculty of art. "But I take it off whenever I leave university."

Resorting to religion and using the hijab as a means of achieving certain objectives is basically attributed, by researchers in the field, to the socio-economic changes that the Jordanian society has undergone in the past 20 years.

"These radical transformations initially drove youngsters towards materialistic purposes and away from religion," explains Dr. Waleed Sarhan, a leading Jordanian psychiatrist. "But later on, many youngsters found out that these changes were psychologically threatening."

"The tendency towards wearing the veil is therefore a violent reaction of certain individuals to the sudden liberalization which crawled into our society," Dr. Sarhan explains. "The growing need for women to work and to get higher education has left the parents with no choice but to protect their daughters by way of the hijab. This aims at protecting the child from social vices," Dr. Sarhan maintains.

However some veiled women blame their parents for forcing them to wear the hijab at an early age, (below ten years), and they feel unable to take it off now because of their fear of social criticism.

"I wish they had let me take it off for a couple of years," says Inaa A., who was forced to wear the veil at the age of four. "Though I am convinced from a religious point of view, yet I find myself bitterly blaming my parents for this," Inaa says.

"When I first wore it I was totally convinced of its need, though it was my parents who made me wear it," says Fadwa A., fourth year student in the faculty of science. "But now I want to take it off even though my parents as well as my friends have warned me against doing this."

"My fiance does not really care, but it is his family who keep nagging me all the time," says A.S. who works in a private company, "they even threatened me last time if I don't comply with their conditions."

Another student in the art department refers to the hijab as a vital point Jordanian men look for when they think of marriage. "Because there is a lot of moral 'corruption' in our society, men look for a 'decent' girl when they want to get married. And hijab, considered as a sign of 'good manners' and decent behaviour, men prefer veiled women," she said.

On the other hand, some male students at the Jordan

University affirm that they would not mind unveiled women as long as they are "well mannered." Some of them even maintained that some veiled women wear the hijab as a new fashion or to cover their "misconduct."

"I don't mind if she is wearing the hijab or not; it is a matter of principle. What really interests me is her way of thinking and her moral behaviour," according to Loai Rabieh, a student in the school of biology.

At the same time that women feel forced to wear the hijab, many others insist that the main reason that prompts them to do so is the sense of refuge and tranquility that they get from wearing the hijab.

Psychiatrists and social analysts attribute this sentiment to the need to return to religion as a way to solve the contradictions that arise from having to cope with the accelerating changes in society today and to get rid of what is termed as unacceptable behavioural pattern which stem from Western culture.

"I admit that I have been neglectful of my duty towards Islam especially in wearing the hijab; yet I know for sure that I will wear it one day," says Dr. Attiyat. "But I think this must come gradually until I am totally convinced that I should wear it and perform my full duties towards Allah (God)," adds Attiyat who is a schoolteacher.

The same response is echoed by many other women. Housewives, students and employees across the Kingdom say upholding religion and wearing the hijab is "inevitable" for them as Muslims. "No one can discuss the legitimacy of the hijab, and the grand wisdom that lies behind it, but one needs to comprehend Islam fully and practise all rituals before being committed to it," says M. Sheib, a bank employee. "It is essential to be totally convinced of wearing hijab so as not to have any suspicions of a reversal in her decision," Sheib adds.

Particularly aware of the importance of wearing hijab and its necessity as a complement to one's religion, many Jordanian women find themselves guilty of their attraction to what they perceive as profane appearances and ideologies. They, as some of them say, suffer frequently from internal contradictions between what they desire and what they must do, feeling it hard to be committed to religious obligations in their modern way of life.

"Though I believe that I must wear hijab, I know that I can't be committed to it," says H. Abu Huwaij, housewife. "I believe that daily prayers

and commitment to all Islam's duties are essential parts that I find myself apt to do. I even think of making the pilgrimage this year."

With no other motive but faith in God and deep religious beliefs, many Muslim women who wear the hijab feel it is the only way to avoid harassment by men as well as attain deep comfort in everyday life. They insist that hijab is an integral part of Islam that every Muslim woman must wear.

In the book "Hijab in the Holy Book and Sunna (tradition)," its writers cite different sayings by Prophet Mohammad and two Quranic verses which imply the necessity of Muslim women wearing hijab and the good effect it produces in the society. It refutes even all sayings that claim that women are permitted to uncover their faces and palms by its allusion to different incidents and sayings of Prophet Mohammad.

One of the explanations that lies beyond the wisdom of wearing hijab is, according to Dr. Mohsin Abdul Hamid, who is one of the authors to the book, to maintain the men's "psychological sanity" and preserving of "sound social relations."

Hijab is thus, according to Muslim plumes a kind of protection and a necessity that Muslim women must comply with particularly in the present state of the Muslim nation where the Arab society is in dire need of resorting to religion and to the moral principles Islam calls for.

Insisting upon the application of the moral values and principles which Islam has preached for, some Muslim women foresee the revival of such values as essential and yet more important than wearing the hijab. They confirm hitherto the healthy consequences this will produce on the society.

"I don't believe in wearing the hijab," says Rana Hussein S., a government employee. "What we really need is at least to stop slandering one other, to treat each other kindly and to be committed to Islam's morals as much as we can. I think this is really much more important than wearing the hijab, and it is what we need at present."

## 6-month war

(Continued from page 1)

that a solution for the Kuwait crisis be linked to settlement of the Palestine problem.

Islam, he said, "advocates flexibility, but firmness in dealing with just causes."

"We respect international law, but international law must be respected when tackling all problems... there's no room for double standards," Saddam told his visitors.

He said: "If we are told let's resolve the Gulf crisis first and later discuss the Palestine cause, our response is that Jerusalem is dearer to us than oil is to you."

"We are a nation that respects its priorities."

Alluding to international rejection of linking the two issues on the grounds that such linkage would mean a victory for Iraq, the president said:

"If they regard the return of Jerusalem a gain, rather than a right... then they should know that they are required to make sacrifices in order for international law to be respected."

He said he sought "stability and relations based on respect, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other and the abstention from the use of force between people of the region."

"Any step that brings us closer to these principles, we will not hesitate to take it, be it political alliance or reconciliation or anything else."

"But we will reject any step that moves us away from these principles... even if that plunged us in pools of blood up to our chests," Saddam said.

He also stressed historical links that made Kuwait "part of Iraq."

Saddam vowed that he would "not use arms lightly. But if war is imposed on us, we would fight and display all the meanings of Arab and Islamic honour."

Saddam said the United States had whipped Security Council members into line and made slaves of them.

"Where is the international legitimacy? America raises the whip to slash the backs of those who agreed to be its slaves. Shall I respect after that something called a Security Council resolution which emerges from this rotten dirt?"

In a fiery speech he also attacked the morals of some Gulf rulers and accused them of wasting their oil wealth while hundreds of thousands in the world starved.

"Arabs today are corrupt... in all aspects of life, socially, culturally, ideologically, politically and economically... there has been no field left without corruption," he told the Muslim delegation.

Saddam was asked by visitors about proposals for a boycott of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina because of the presence of U.S. and other Western troops in Saudi Arabia.

His advice, according to INA, was that Muslims "should perform the Haj but express rejection of injustice and evil while they are in the sacred land."

The White House Saturday criticised Iraq for refusing to send its foreign minister to Washington this weekend and insisted that "mutually satisfactory" dates for high-level meetings on the Gulf crisis be scheduled.

In the latest development in the dispute over the scheduling of talks suggested by Bush more than two weeks ago, Iraq's information minister said Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz would not meet Bush on Monday.

"Today's public announcement is just a reaffirmation of the Iraqi unwillingness to deal seriously with the issue," White House spokesman John Herrick said from the presidential retreat at Camp David, where Bush was spending the weekend.

"We have communicated to the Iraqis that mutually satisfactory dates should be set," he said.

Azz had been tentatively expected in Washington this weekend, but Information Minister Lam Nassef Al Jasseer told British radio that there was no possibility of the meeting taking place.

White House officials said they had not received official notification that Azz would not be coming to Washington.

"We don't expect to receive any official notification of this," added one official.

Even before the announcement, prospects for a Monday meeting had been dim because of Iraq's refusal to see Baker in Baghdad before Jan. 12.

U.S. officials had said that a date for the meeting between Baker and Saddam must be agreed before the Bush-Azz meeting could take place.

Before leaving the White House for the weekend Friday, Bush told reporters, "the Azz meeting is on hold," I guess."

## Benjedid

(Continued from page 1)

all the Arab rights," it said.

In Beirut Benjedid, the first foreign head of state to visit Lebanon in seven years, held talks with President Elias Hrawi on efforts to end the civil war.

Speaking before two rounds of talks with Hrawi, Benjedid vowed to support attempts to rebuild and unite Lebanon under an Arab-backed peace pact after 15 years of war.

"I hope our brethren in Lebanon unite and work to build their country on the basis of brotherly

forgiveness," he told reporters at Hrawi's residence in west Beirut, guarded by scores of Lebanese troops and Syrian security officers.

## Giraud

(Continued from page 1)

Registers at Ghassan hospital and the city morgue showed 13 died Friday and 20 on Saturday.

Most of the dead brought in on Saturday were soldiers.

The weekly said it was informed by scientists Bruno

Steinlemer and Walter Busse that Iraqi scientists have built a factory northwest of Baghdad for producing nuclear centrifuges, which are essential for making weapons-grade uranium, and they have also built a uranium enrichment laboratory in the southern outskirts of the capital.

The Sunday Times said technology for the two plants was provided "by at least a dozen Western companies" which filled orders from apparently innocent Iraqi firms which were cover operations for secret nuclear weapon know-how.

## Morocco

(Continued from page 1)

said police in Fez suffered heavy casualties because they exercised restraint, using warning shots, tear-gas and clubs to disperse rioters.

Authorities said a policeman was fatally stabbed when his unit was surrounded by rioters, and a civilian was crushed to death by stampeding protesters during a police charge.

Eyewitnesses said that before an uneasy calm returned on Sunday, a pharmacy was burned down during the night in the Mont Fleuri quarter and a filling station put to the torch on the highway leading to the town of Sefrou.

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### Qualifications required:

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- 3) Holder of University Degree
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## Liverpool extends lead as Gilbert reaches Grand Slam final in bad tempered match

LONDON (R) — English first division leaders Liverpool added to the misery of bottom-placed Sheffield United on Saturday as the Arsenal side challenge faltered once again.

United's 2-0 defeat by Liverpool matched the record for the poorest league start ever of 16 games, set last season by Hull City of the second division.

A last-minute goal by Wimbledon saw Arsenal held to a 2-2 draw at home — although the result allowed the gunners to equal their best unbeaten league start, set in 1947, of 17 games.

Arsenal, docked two points for disciplinary reasons last month, now trail the champions by four points.

The real action, however, was away from the top of the table, where Chelsea scored a 6-4 away win over Derby County.

With two goals from centre forward Kerry Dixon and another from Gordon Durie, on-form Chelsea set up a 3-1 lead by half-time.

But Derby began to claw their way back with a 62nd-minute strike from midfielder Trevor Hebbert.

Dean Saunders, who scored Derby's lone first-half goal, added another in the 66th minute and Gary Micklethwaite put them 4-3 ahead nine minutes later.

It was to no avail, however. Chelsea fired in three goals in the last quarter of an hour, including an outstanding solo effort from Durie.

Coventry City, at home to Manchester United, looked set for their first league win since the arrival last month of player-manager Terry Butcher.

Going into the last minutes of the match, Coventry led 2-1 and looked well in control. T'oun United's Danny Wallace struck an 89th-minute equaliser.

Arsenal, who narrowly missed grabbing the first-division lead a week ago, looked poised for a useful win when striker Paul Merson and Captain Tony Adams put them 2-0 in front against Wimbledon some 10 minutes before half-time.

England midfielder David

Platt converted a 78th minute spot kick to salvage a point for Aston Villa after Matthew Le Tissier put Southampton in front just before half-time.

Wimbledon's last minute let-off must have been especially sweet for Ray Harford confirmed in midweek as full-time manager after an increasingly successful spell as caretaker.

Arsenal were the opponents in Harford's first match as caretaker after the resignation of Bobby Gould at the beginning of the season. Wimbledon lost that match 3-0.

Liverpool, who lost their unbeaten league record to Arsenal two weeks ago, fielded a more attacking side against hapless Sheffield United.

But United were spirited in their resistance, foiling a string of Liverpool moves in the first half before the champions eventually broke through.

Goals from John Barnes in the 61st minute and Ian Rush in the 75th finally earned Liverpool the three points.

Elsewhere, Manchester City snatched victory in a fine five-minute spell at home to Tottenham Hotspur.

Spurs' midfielder Paul Gascoigne opened the scoring in the 26th minute, slamming home the ball after a neat one-two with England striker Gary Lineker.

City came into their own in the second half. Captain Steve Redmond shot the equaliser a quarter of an hour before the final whistle and Mark Ward completed a deserved City victory from the penalty spot in the 80th minute.

There was no respite for Queen's Park Rangers, who slumped to their ninth successive defeat, beaten 2-1 at home by Nottingham Forest.

Norwich came from behind to gain a 2-1 win at Sunderland. Gordon Armstrong gave the home side a 14th minute lead, but Norwich netted twice after the break through Tim Sherriff and the dangerous Dale Gordon.

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England midfielder David

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Tempers flared when Brad Gilbert beat fellow American David Wheaton to reach the final of the \$6-million Grand Slam Cup.

Gilbert, who won the semifinal 6-3 3-6 7-6 2-6 6-4, and Wheaton had to be pulled apart after a nasty, face-to-face row over a disputed point and both received warnings for their behaviour.

In the other all-American semifinal, U.S. open champion Pete Sampras beat Michael Chang for the first time in six meetings, reaching Sunday's final with a 6-3 6-4 6-4 victory.

With a guaranteed \$9 million at stake for the semifinal winners, feelings were running high in Munich's Olympiahalle.

The crowd, some 5,000 strong, held up play for several minutes, whistling and booing, when Gilbert was awarded a disputed point in the third set tie-break against Wheaton.

British umpire Stephen Winyard has overruled a line judge's call against Gilbert, giving the 29-year-old a 7-6 lead in the tie-break.

Wheaton protested to no avail and, when play continued once the crowd had quietened down, he lost the tie-break 7-9.

As the two men passed each other at the next change of ends a stand-up argument broke out and tournament referee Ken Farrar and another official had to pull the players apart before they came to blows.

Both were given warnings for unsportsmanlike behaviour.

Gilbert, a last-minute replace-

ment for injured compatriot Andre Agassi, had already received a warning for a time violation late in the third set.

But the two men, who had met three times before with Gilbert always the winner, shook hands when the match ended after three hours and 53 minutes.

Wheaton, who beat world number three Ivan Lendl in the quarter-finals, played well at the net but had to cope with a foot problem early in the match.

Three times during the change-overs he called on the tournament doctor to examine his left foot.

A single break of serve was enough to decide the first two sets as well as the fourth, when Gilbert surrendered set-point on a double fault.

Wheaton and Chang took home \$450,000 while Gilbert and Sampras will play for the \$2-million first prize in this new event which carries no ranking points.

But the 19-year-old Sampras, who battled to victory despite painful blisters on his feet, had other things that money on his mind when he faced Chang across the carpet court.

"It is more important for me to beat Chang than to make one million dollars," said Sampras, the youngest man ever to win the U.S. Open.

"We have been rivals since we were 10 years old and I have never been able to beat him before."

Sampras's superiority at the

net paid off. The 18-year-old Chang, hanging back, was caught out by a volley for the only break of the first set.

Chang, who also took his place in the record books when he became the youngest man to win the French Open last year, rarely threatened Sampras on his serve.

Sampras and Chang grew visibly tired in the third set and both the third and fourth games went six times to deuce and four times to break-point before the server held.

But then, after an exchange of breaks, Sampras took the upper hand. He broke Chang to love, helped by a double fault, and served out to take victory on his second match-point.

Gilbert played down the incident with Wheaton after their semifinal.

"It was just the heat of the moment," he said. "We are playing for a lot of money."

Wheaton, though, was still smarting. "That was \$1 million less than what I wanted," he said.

"I don't like to get involved in a thing like that — tennis is a gentleman's sport — but will always stick up for my family and he just invaded my space," Wheaton said of Gilbert.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY DECEMBER 17, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Make it a point to be on the alert to find an unexpected benefit falling in your lap that can give you a new view-point and a new element of protection in whatever you feel is most vital.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Sit down and really discuss with your partners just what you and they can do to improve your present joint ventures and make your alliances good.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) This is an excellent day for you to get at the projects that require your own personal efforts which should also please your associates.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you have in mind requiring the goodwill and active alliance of chameleons who fascinate and bring out the best in you is fine.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 22) You would be wise to be very charming and agreeable to anyone with whom you come in contact that has to do with anything of an official nature.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Think out what you can best do in order to expand your influence far beyond present limits and be open-minded about using some new methods.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind that necessitates some additional activity spent on doing what you have agreed is fine even though some more time is needed.

they make time bringing bread to yourself by your own intelligent efforts, with advise.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You have charm and the ability to impress others with your own social qualities now so take the time to build up your attractiveness to others.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 22) Your favorite activity next to romance is getting at the root of anything that perplexes or puzzles you and this is the time to get the answers.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Look to your own personal friends for those ideas and that backing you need if you are to bring to yourself the personal desires you want.

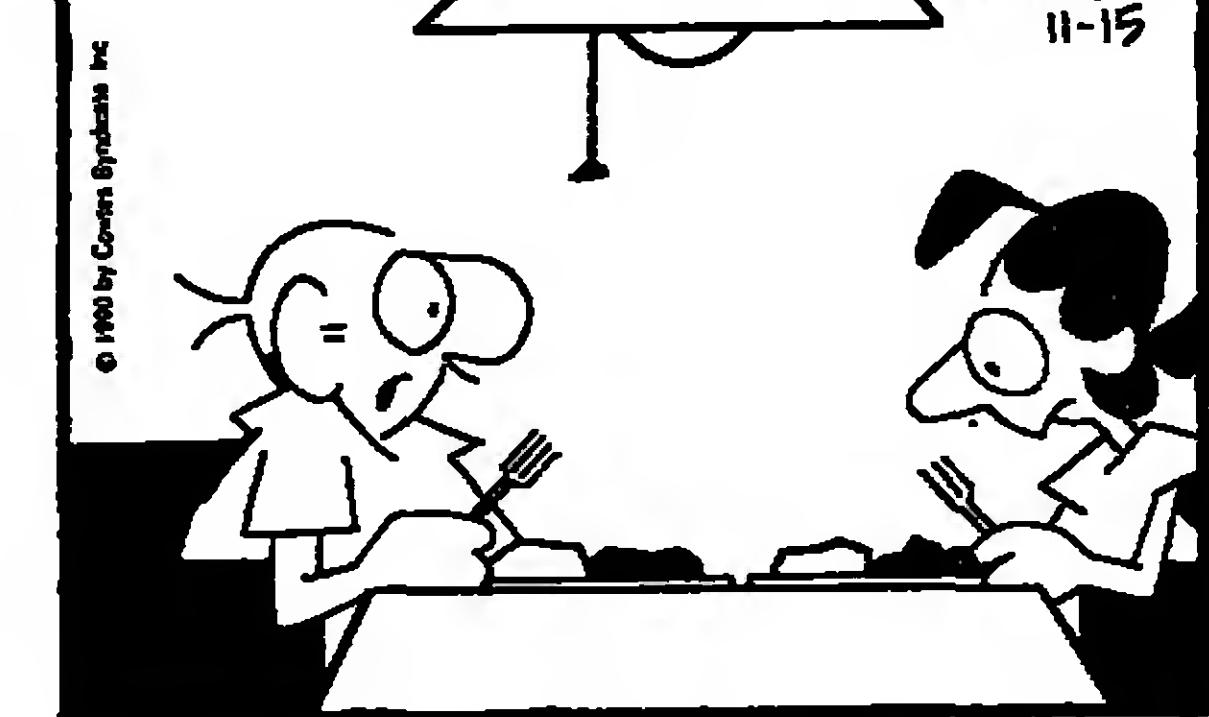
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## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



## Kasparov near victory in world title chess

LYON, France (R) — Reigning world chess champion Garry Kasparov pushed challenger Anatoly Karpov to the brink of elimination from their title match Saturday, with a flashy 41-move win in the 20th game.

Karpov now leads the 24-game series 11-9, with four wins, two losses and 14 draws.

Kasparov, playing white, combined speed and power to unleash a ferocious attack on the black king, which eventually caused his challenger huge material losses.

Karpov was forced to defend a very risky position with only seconds separating him from loss by forfeit.

The champion manipulated the game in his best crowd-pleasing style, sacrificing assets to strip his opponent of defenders, then invading to recoup his investment with interest.

The players exchanged a firm handshake at the end of the game as applause erupted from a capacity crowd of about 1,000 in Lyon's Palais des Congres.

Despite their long-running rivalry and the drama of the day's clash, the players remained onstage for several minutes, dis-

cussing the intricacies of the game.

Experts gave Karpov credit for taking changes to provoke a crisis — he had badly needed an equalising win.

Karpov's two-point deficit is made even more daunting by the clause in the competition rules that will allow Kasparov to keep his crown in the event of a 12-12 tie.

Kasparov was understandably enthusiastic about the game.

"I'm very satisfied ... I finally won a game in my old style," he said.

"After game 19 he saw that I wasn't going to take any risk and that's why he decided to fight today — he's great fighter."

"He doesn't care how much he loses by — one point, two points — he only wants to win the match."

"It wasn't the best game but it was the most effective — bad luck," Kasparov laughed.

The next game is scheduled for Monday, with Karpov having the advantage of the white pieces and therefore the first move.

Each player has one time-out left to postpone a game.

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**RONED**

**GHEED**

**CHOROB**

**HOLURY**

New arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**ANSWER:** **OUT**

**OF**

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's **Jumble:** **BOUND ELOPE DELUGE FORMAT**

Answer: What my merchant's jokes did — FLOORED 'EM

## THE Daily Crossword

by Martha J. DeWitt

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Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

ENTLE SEAT SPAGHETTI

RENT TELE AROMA DIMITRI

SITTHARAT PASTA RIBBON

REEF DINO

PASTAS SENIOR HAPPI

ASCOT MARIE BOBBY

TINER FREIGHTS

# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1990 7

France gets best inflation news in nearly five years

PARIS (R) — French consumer prices fell 0.2 per cent last month compared with October, the first month-on-month drop since February 1986, the finance ministry has said.

The national statistics office, INSEE, attributed the drop to a decline in oil prices after three months of sharp increases following the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

The rise in prices in the year to the end of November was 3.6 per cent, down from 3.9 per cent in October.

"In spite of the rise in oil prices due to the events in the Gulf, the rise in prices in France in 1990 will not exceed the increase in 1989 (of 3.6 per cent)," the ministry said.

Both the ministry and independent analysts said the underlying inflation rate, excluding oil, contained even better news.

After stripping out energy prices, the ministry said French inflation at a year-on-year three per cent in November against 3.1 per cent in October.

"Internal prices are therefore well under control and are even showing a slight tendency to come down," it said.

"The figures confirm that if you take out the gyrations in energy prices, you have no inflation problem here," said Christopher Potts, an economist with Banque Indosuez.

Assuming France ended 1990 with a 3.6 per cent inflation rate and oil prices averaged \$25 a barrel next year, French inflation could fall to three per cent in 1991, he said.

The official forecast for 1991 remains 2.8 per cent.

Ireland sees very tough '90

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish central bank has forecast a sharp fall in Ireland's growth rate next year, while Finance Minister Albert Reynolds said 1991 will be "very tough and difficult." The economy would grow 2.25 per cent in 1991, compared with a projected five per cent growth rate this year, the bank said in its latest quarterly forecast. Inflation would be kept to 3.5 per cent, but unemployment would be unlikely to fall, it said. "The international market place will not be as benign as it was this year or last year," Reynolds told Irish state radio. Warning the Irish that they would have to keep tightening their belts, he said: "Definitely the (January) budget will not be a giveaway budget."

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

		Sunday, December 16, 1990		Central Bank official rates	
		Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	661.0	665.0	667.0	497.2	500.2
Pound Sterling	1280	1287	1295	39.5	39.9
Deutschmark	446.2	449.9	452.9	118.0	119.0
Swiss franc	519.7	522.8	525.1	59.5	59.5
French franc	1312	132.0	132.4	215.4	216.7

**TODAY AT**

**CONCORD**  
Cinema Tel: 677420  
Tom Slik in...  
**HER ALIBI**  
3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**NIJOUN**  
Cinema Tel: 675571  
**ARCTIC HEAT**  
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.  
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

*Jas H. is back*

## Pakistan starts privatisation drive with Muslim bank

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistani government opened its promised drive to privatise state enterprise Saturday by inviting bids for the profitable Muslim Commercial Bank (MCB).

It put up a 26 per cent share in the MCB for auction to a single bidder. The buyer will take over management of the bank and underwrite a public offer of the remaining 25 per cent of shares being sold.

The MCB, which has 1,270 branches, made pre-tax profits of 250 million rupees (\$11.4 million) in 1989, up from 227 million (\$10.3 million) the year before.

The government announced a minimum bid price of 35 rupees (\$1.6) a share, which would

swell its coffers by 1.03 billion rupees (\$46 million) and cut the massive budget deficit.

But banking unions said they would oppose privatisation and were meeting to plan their campaign.

"The privatisation of the MCB is neither in the interest of the staff nor of the people or the government," said the head of the MCB employees union, Mohammad Khan.

Khan said he feared many of the bank's nearly 13,000 workers would lose their jobs and loss-making branches in rural areas would be closed.

The unions have long opposed privatisation and effectively prevented the former government of Benazir Bhutto from selling

shares in the MCB.

The sale of a 51 per cent stake in the MCB is the start of a privatisation drive promised by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif shortly after he took office in November.

Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz says the success of the MCB sale will determine how quickly the government pushes ahead with plans to sell the three commercial banks nationalised in 1974 and other public enterprises.

A government source said the Adamjee family, which created the MCB in 1948, will be given first refusal by the government to buy the 26 per cent share stake on offer. But it would have to compete with other bidders on price, he added.

"Unfamiliar with the negative or positive impacts of the application of monetary devices, we have not exploited those devices to the optimum... as a result our policies have served to overlook... the independence of the central bank," he said in a rare criticism.

Aziz's remarks, carried by the national news agency IRNA, did not refer to any specific monetary policy advocated by the government.

But he hinted that rival monetary authorities were investing public funds in projects without the approval of the banking system.

"Banks are trustees of the people in relation to their deposits and their savings. According to the Islamic banking system, the banks are not allowed to invest peoples' deposits on projects and enterprises contrary to their agreements with depositors," he pointed out.

Middle East is now pinched by a vehicle shortage.

Before Iraq's invasion, Kuwait accounted for about 25 per cent of G.M.'s business in the Middle East.

Lost Kuwaiti business, Indge said, has been absorbed by new demand from Saudi authorities and others in the region, including Kuwaiti exiles in Saudi Arabia.

There has been new demand, he said, for full-size buses because "the more troops, the more workers you have" the greater demand is for transport vehicles.

## G.M. says get-away car reputation will help M.E. sales

DHAIRAN, Saudi Arabia (R) — General Motors (G.M.) says the Gulf crisis had a silver lining — it gave the Chevy the reputation of a fast get-away car.

G.M.'s director for the Middle East, Terry Indge, said the company expected improved business this year and next despite the loss of a rich market in Kuwait.

G.M. relies on the Chevrolet Caprice Sedan that sells for around 90,000 Saudi riyals (\$24,000) and the suburban utility vehicle for about 80 per cent of its sales in the region, he said.

## Inflation in Israel hits 17%

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's consumer price index rose 1.3 per cent in November, matching the year-earlier rate but down from 1.7 per cent in October, the government has said. The index, which measures price changes for a fixed market basket of goods and services, has risen 17.1 per cent since the start of the year. Economists predict that Israel's inflation rate for the year will exceed 18 per cent. Israeli radio said much of the November rise reflected higher prices for food. The increase in housing costs was more moderate than in earlier months, when rents and mortgage prices were driven up rapidly by a shortage caused by the influx of thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

The radio said the average Israeli family's monthly consumption costs was 3,590 shekels (\$1,795) in November.

## Oil seen in decline as fuel

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some environmentalists are hoping that the oil shock that followed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will help convince the world to hasten a switch to solar power, which they consider inevitable anyway.

"The end of the fossil-fuel age is now in sight..." said a study by the Worldwatch Institute, a private group funded by United Nations organisations and private foundations.

Oil is a danger to peace, a dangerous pollutant and not that cheap, argued Christopher Flavin, vice president of Worldwatch. He is co-author with Nicholas Lenssen of "Beyond the Petroleum Age: Designing the Solar Economy," a pamphlet made public Saturday.

Flavin told a news conference that the choice is between a gradual transition from oil, encouraged by government policies and market forces, and a sudden emergency shift amid economic and social chaos in the future.

"While oil dependence may seem inevitable and permanent, it could turn out to be shorter than the 200-year age of coal," the study said. "... In the immediate future, a chaotic oil market may do the most to alter global energy trends. When Iraq's tanks rumbled into Kuwait in August 1990, the world suffered its third oil shock in just 17 years."

The American Petroleum Institute, which represents the in-

dustry, disagreed.

"The U.S. Department of Energy forecasts that 10 years from now oil will still contribute almost the same proportion of America's energy supply that it does today..." it said in a statement.

"In the future, energy from solar, wind and geothermal sources may indeed become more important components of the U.S. and worldwide energy mix," the American Petroleum Institute said.

World Resources Institute, will another environmentalist group, issued a report Thursday favouring development of cars that run on different fuels. It noted that BMW and Mercedes-Benz in Germany have produced cars powered by hydrogen, for research purposes, and that General Motors is already selling an electric van. Hydrogen produced from water would be a cheap and abundant fuel.

"Many of the machines and processes that could provide energy in a solar economy are now almost economically competitive with fossil fuels," Worldwatch said, citing windpower in windy areas and geothermal energy where it is possible to tap heat deep in the earth.

But its figures show the cost of direct electricity production from the heat of the sun will become economical only at the end of the century.

Iran's central bank attacks government for interference

NICOSIA (R) — The governor of the Iranian central bank has accused the government and parliament of economic mismanagement by interfering in monetary policies.

Mohammad-Hossein Adeli told a news conference Saturday the government and the Majlis (parliament) made monetary decisions "whereby they dictate supply of money and its rates to the society in a practice which has adversely affected the economy system in the country."

"Unfamiliar with the negative or positive impacts of the application of monetary devices, we have not exploited those devices to the optimum... as a result our policies have served to overlook... the independence of the central bank," he said in a rare criticism.

Adeli's remarks, carried by the national news agency IRNA, did not refer to any specific monetary policy advocated by the government.

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## ANC may end talks with government after April 1991

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) said Sunday it would consider suspending its negotiations with the South African government unless key reforms were carried out by April 30, 1991.

A major ANC conference resolved to consider breaking off the movement's seven-month-old reform talks with Pretoria unless President F.W. de Klerk removed all obstacles to full negotiations on ending apartheid by April 30.

The conference said the obstacles were releasing all political prisoners, allowing the return of political exiles, repealing repressive legislation and ending township violence.

Nelson Mandela's anti-apartheid movement also said at the ANC's first conference inside South Africa in 30 years that because of continuing black factional violence it might reconsider a resumption of its armed struggle.

But a resolution on this was not linked to the April 30 deadline.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in Johannesburg townships in battles between the

ANC and its main rival, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

The ANC called for mass protests to force the government to end black factional war in townships.

The resolution on negotiations with the government said that the ANC's National Executive Committee "sees notice on the regime that unless all the obstacles are removed on or before April 30, 1991, the ANC shall consider the suspension of the whole negotiation process."

It said: "Prior to this date, the ANC shall engage in a programme of mass action, and all other actions, to achieve our objectives as quickly as possible."

A resolution on township violence said: "We hereby serve notice on the regime that unless it ends this carnage the ANC will find it difficult if not impossible to adhere to the agreements entered into with the government."

It mentioned especially a clause of the "Pretoria minute" agreement concluded in August between the ANC and the government which committed the ANC to suspending its 30-year-

old guerrilla campaign.

In return the government agreed to review its security legislation, which anti-apartheid groups say allows police virtually unfettered powers to curb black political activity.

The ANC believes that ending the violence should be at the top of the agenda of the ANC and the entire democratic movement," the resolution said.

The government denies accusations that it is helping Inkatha in the fighting but acknowledges that the violence has slowed down its political reform talks with the ANC.

President F.W. de Klerk says the government has no interest in weakening the ANC and the unrest is caused simply by factional competition between the ANC and Inkatha.

The ANC called on its military wing Spear of the Nation to participate in the formation of "fight and disciplined defence committees" to protect black communities ravaged by township violence.

The resolution did not order Spear of the Nation to resume the armed struggle that the movement suspended in August.

but the committees had to ensure blacks had the resources to undertake mass protests.

The ANC slightly softened an uncompromising stand it took Saturday against the lifting of economic sanctions against Pretoria.

The movement asked the world Saturday to maintain all sanctions to punish De Klerk on accusations of delaying key reforms agreed in talks with ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela.

On Sunday the movement passed a resolution signalling it was willing to consider the easing of sanctions provided South African companies stopped blocking existing bans on exports.

Meanwhile South African police seized 18 AK-47 assault rifles Sunday at a Zulu migrant workers' hostel in Johannesburg's battle-scarred Thokoza township.

Spokesman Ruben Bloomberg said police confiscated the rifles, an assortment of pistols, a large quantity of ammunition and sticks of dynamite in a raid on the hostel.

Four men were arrested.

## Haiti makes another try at democracy

PONT-AU-PRINCE (R) — In a climate of fear and insecurity, Haitians vote in another bid to bring democracy to the West Hemisphere's poorest and most backward country.

More than 3.2 million people, roughly 80 per cent of the electorate, have registered to vote in general elections — the third since an uprising ended 29 years of dictatorship by the Duvalier family in 1986.

In the closing stages of the campaign, a grenade attack on supporters of the leading candidate, leftist Roman Catholic priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide, killed seven people, wounded more than 50, and fuelled fears of more bloodshed on election day.

Three years ago, 37 Haitians were gunned down or hacked to death as they lined up to vote. Human rights groups blamed the massacre on remnants of the Tonton Macoute, the sinister private militia formed by the late Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and taken over by his son Jean-Claude, "Baby Doc."

Papa Doc is dead and Baby Doc is in exile in the south of France. But the structure of state terror and intimidation they built in Haiti has not been completely eradicated.

On the eve of the vote, Aristide's National Front for Change and Democracy sent a letter to the army officer in charge of electoral security, Colonel Raoul Cedras, complaining of intimidation and death threats against its leader.

Evans Paul, a senior aide of Aristide, charged Saturday that police and military officials in the city of Les Cayes had told peasants in the area not to vote for the priest, saying he would be shot dead Monday if he won.

Officials with a foreign observer group led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said they had heard complaints about intimidation in south Haiti and in its mountainous regions.

Carter himself, however, said after meeting five of the 11 candidates Saturday that there was "a general sense of confidence" that the vote would go ahead in peace.

Followers of the Duvaliers' old order are led by Dr. Roger Lafontant, a former interior minister and self-confessed Macoute whose presidential campaign came to an abrupt end on Nov. 5 when the electoral council barred him on a technicality.

Lafontant lodged an unsuccessful appeal to the supreme court to suspend the elections.

Aristide's chief rival in the race is Marc Bazin, a former World Bank official who says his economic expertise and extensive contacts in the international financial community makes him most qualified to pull Haiti out of a swamp of poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease.

Bazin's electoral programme lists Haiti woes in explicit and depressing detail. Most of his compatriots, he says, have been too hungry to care about anything but day-to-day survival.

According to Bazin, 80 per cent of the population live below the poverty level set by international organisations — \$150 a year.

## Romanians mark first anniversary of uprising

TIMISOARA, Romania (R) — Crowds braved icy rain in the western Romanian city of Timisoara Sunday to mark the first anniversary of an uprising which sparked the bloodiest of Eastern Europe's 1989 anti-Communist revolutions.

Residents carrying lighted candles and wreaths of flowers started gathering at dawn all over town to pay homage to those who died in the uprising and formed groups to march to the overthrow of Ceausescu in the capital on Dec. 22 and his execution on Christmas Day.

Many accused the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) of betraying the ideals of the revolution that ousted Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

"It is sad to think people died here in Timisoara only to replace one lie with another lie," said Maria Rusu, 38, an activist

of the opposition National Liberal Party. "I am afraid today we shall remember not only our dead but also a big disappointment."

The National Liberal Party is one of six parliamentary parties which formed an anti-government coalition Saturday.

Ninety-seven people were killed and more than 200 wounded during the Timisoara uprising which began last Dec. 16 and led to the overthrow of Ceausescu in the capital on Dec. 22 and his execution on Christmas Day.

More than 1,000 people were killed across the country during the turmoil, and opposition groups say the government has failed to punish secret policemen and soldiers who carried out the massacre in a bid to stop the uprising.

## Police launch nationwide hunt for escaped prisoners

PIRAEUS, Greece (AP) — Police launched a nationwide manhunt Sunday for 66 prisoners who escaped from a maximum security penitentiary in what was believed to be the largest single jailbreak in modern Greek history.

A police spokesman said 15 of the 81 prisoners who broke out of Korydallos prison, located in the port city near Athens, had been arrested by noon (1000 GMT).

It was the largest single jail-break in Greek history, said the spokesman, who asked not to be named.

"There are three foreigners in the group that we arrested, two Romanians and an Iranian who turned himself in," he said.

No one of Korydallos' maximum-security prisoners had escaped, he added. Those prisoners include convicted murderers, suspected terrorists and former military dictators.

"Prisoners like Rashid did not escape. Most of the people who got out are burglars and thieves," he said.

Liu confirmed officially for the first time that a number were arrested after holding an underground episcopal conference in northwestern China in November of last year.

More than 30 clerics and lay people were arrested and three bishops and a priest are still in detention, according to Ucan, a Roman Catholic news agency based in Hong Kong.

Liu declined to give details but added that those arrested were guilty of founding an illegal organisation and had not been charged because of their religious belief.

Asked about a Ucan report that Bishop Hou Guoyang of Sichuan was in jail, Liu dismissed him as a fraud. "He is already married and has a child. He has no education. He is not worthy of being a bishop."

Liu accused pro-Vatican clerics who held mass and services in secret of spreading heresy and playing on the superstitions beliefs of uneducated peasants.

"Read this prayer for 81 days and you and your parents will never go to hell. But you must face Rome when you pray," Liu said, describing how one priest attracted his followers.

Others established a heretical "mother church" in Hebei province with a mother worship figure and 12 female disciples.

"The underground church is active among peasants. They are causing chaos," Liu said.

The Vatican has secretly appointed more than 20 bishops since the late 1970s when China reopened churches after the radical Cultural Revolution. Liu added.

China was nevertheless ready to establish diplomatic ties with the Vatican provided it cut links with Taiwan, recognised the independence of the Chinese Church and stopped appointing underground clerics.

The Vatican had adopted an even more unfriendly policy towards China after June 4 last year, Liu said, referring to the date of an army crackdown on the student-led democracy movement.

But environmentalists and human rights activists said that without land reform laws and an improved system of justice in the Amazon region, the rain forest would continue to be destroyed.

But the ranchers' lawyer said key testimony by a 15-year-old

China arrests underground priests

PEKING (R) — China's official Catholic Church has accused underground priests and bishops appointed by the Vatican of spreading heresy and confirmed that a number were arrested after holding a secret episcopal conference.

But Liu Bainian, spokesman for the official Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, said in an interview China was still willing to establish relations with the Vatican.

In the Vatican City Saturday, Pope John Paul urged Chinese believers not to turn their backs on members of Peking's official church.

But he added: "The arrests of bishops, priests and members of the laity... lead one to think that there is a long way to go before the Catholic community on the mainland can give full and open expression to its faith."

China has no official ties with the Vatican, which recognises the Nationalist government in Taiwan and continues to appoint bishops and priests in secret on the Communist mainland.

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Issuing a virtual declaration of war a day after the raid, the FARC vowed to fight for a more just and free country and said the government had done everything possible to achieve peace with the FARC.

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